Caleb Sutton review

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Caleb's name

Family researchers sometimes show Caleb's name as John Caleb Sutton, probably because he had a son named John Caleb and it is assumed that their names were the same. But this assumption is not supported by the records:[1] the younger man only had a Jr. appended when he appeared as Caleb rather than John Caleb or John C. His father was simply Caleb.

(1) Census:

Year	Caleb Sutton shown as	Caleb Sutton Jr. shown as
1820[2]	Caleb Sutton	N/A
1830[3]	Caleb Sutton	N/A
1840[4]	Caleb Sutton	N/A
1850[5]	Caleb Sutton	John C. Sutton
1860[6]	Caleb Sutton	John K. Sutton, possibly for *John Kalie*, a name by which Caleb's great-grandson John Caleb has been found[7]

(2) Compiled Service Records (CSR) and related records:

Record for:	Type of Record:	Comments
Caleb Sutton	CSR[8]	Age 60, from Robeson County, Co. D, 18 Regt. NC Inf.; died 10 February 1862; name appears as Caleb on all seven cards
Caleb Sutton	Death notice[9]	Caleb Sutton of the Robeson Rifle Guards, Co. D, 18th Reg't, died at Camp Stephens, SC on 26 February 1862 (contradicts February 10th date of death in his CSR)
Caleb Sutton Jr.	CSR[10]	Co. D, 18 Regt. NC Inf., last card states he never mustered into service; name appears as Caleb Jr. on two of the three cards and as Caleb on the third, but this card (p. 2) probably belongs to Caleb (Sr.) as it shows a muster-in date of 17 June 1861 at Fort Johnson, which is consistent with what the latter's CSR shows (also p. 2)
John C. Sutton	CSR[11]	Age 18, from Robeson County, Co. G, 36 Regt. NC Art'y; died on 16 April 1865 at Elmira NY; name appears as John C. or Jno. C. on all seven cards
John C. Sutton	POW[12]	Elmira NY; Co. G, 36 NC; died 16 April 1865, burial Woodlawn; name appears as Jno. C. on all eight pages

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Caleb's wives

Lisha Anderson / Andrews

Caleb's first wife is sometimes shown as Lisha Anderson or Andrews based on her 1826 marriage in Craven County to a John Sutton,[13] but there is readily available evidence that this marriage record does not belong to Caleb.

John Sutton was on the Craven County census continuously beginning in 1830.[14] From 1850[15] to 1870,[16] the household occupants included John and Lisha (variant spellings). In 1880, the widowed Litia Sutton was living with the family of her daughter Narcissis.[17]

As previously cited, Caleb Sutton was on the Robeson County census in 1830 and 1840, and he and Marinda were on the census there in 1850 and 1860. Based on these census records and the well-documented fact that Caleb died in 1862, Caleb was obviously not the same person as John Sutton.

Marinda Boyette / Boyd

Caleb's second wife was identified as Marinda Boyette on the death certificate of their daughter Mary Caroline Stone[18] but as Miranda Boyd on the death certificate of their son William Boyd Sutton.[19] The informant for Mary Caroline's record was Jesse Scott, probably the husband of her daughter Emmaline.[20] For William Boyd's it was C.J. Hellgren, probably Charles J. Hellgreen, the son of William's daughter Susan.[21]

No deeds, estate documents or other records have so far been found that link either Caleb or Marinda Sutton to a Boyette or a Boyd or to Duplin County, Marinda's place of birth as reported in the 1850 census. The match-up between William Boyd Sutton's middle name and the maiden name reported for his mother may be noteworthy but it is not definitive and until further evidence is uncovered, the question of Marinda's family name necessarily remains unresolved.

Although the precise date of Caleb and Marinda's marriage is not known, the age gap between James, born about 1827,[22] and Malcolm, born about 1834,[23] suggests that Malcolm was the oldest child from Caleb's second marriage.

Caleb's birth and parentage

Based on Caleb's reported age in the 1850 and 1860 censuses and his compiled service record, he was born in 1801. However, his reported age in the censuses for 1820 through 1840 yields a birth year of 1795-1800, i.e., 1795-1804 in 1820 and 1790-1800 in 1830 and 1840. This at least raises the possibility that he was one of the males under the age of 10 in Jesse Sutton's 1800 Robeson County household.[24] The only other occupant of Caleb's 1820 household was an older female, possibly his widowed mother; if this assumption is correct, his being named as the head of household may be evidence that he was of age by then.

There is no direct evidence that Caleb was the son of Jesse and records that would provide indirect evidence have been maddeningly elusive. Jesse's 1800 census appearance was the last record found for him and his only mention in Robeson County Superior Court minutes for the period 1797 to 1813 was his assignment to a road crew on 5 July 1797.[25] There is no evidence he was a landowner so he would not have been named as a juror[26] but it would be expected for him to appear more than once in the road and bridge work assignments[27] that are ubiquitous throughout these early court minutes if he were still resident in the county.

There is no known record that bridges the gap between 1800 Jesse Sutton and 1820 Caleb Sutton. No Suttons were found in a page-by-page search of the 1810 census for Robeson; if they were not simply missed, maybe the family had moved out of the county by then or Jesse's widow and children were "invisible" occupants in a household of the widow's so-far unidentified relations. No deeds or estate records have been found for Jesse, nor did his name appear as a witness to other people's legal documents in a fairly systematic perusal of these early records. Jesse left no estate in Robeson County and it was usual in such cases for any minor orphans to be indentured out so that the burden of their upkeep did not fall on the county, but there is no mention of Jesse's children in the aforementioned court minutes. Perhaps the issue never arose because the widow's relations provided sufficiently for them. Or maybe the Suttons did not stay in Robeson County between 1800 and 1820 but only returned there after Jesse died. This possibility needs to be explored still and post-1813 court minutes reviewed for helpful clues.

Caleb's burial

As noted above, Caleb Sutton died at Camp Stephens, South Carolina in 1862 and this is presumably where he was buried. However, a military headstone for him (as John Caleb Sutton) was placed at Morningside Cemetery in Rochelle, Georgia.[28] This marker is the first in a row of seven Sutton military headstones for Caleb and his six sons that give the North Carolina company and regiment of each man's service and his birth and death years, i.e., in order:

- John Caleb Sutton, 1801-1862
- James Thomas Sutton, 1827-1908
- Malcolm H. Sutton, 1834-1862
- William B. Sutton, 1836-1915
- Benjamin L. Sutton, 1840-1927
- Wade H. Sutton, 1842-1863
- John Caleb Sutton Jr., 1845-1865

None of these men lived or died in Georgia. Two of them, John Caleb "Jr."[29] and Benjamin,[30] have clearly marked graves where they did die, and the year of death given for three of the men is wrong as evidenced by contemporaneous records for them — James Thomas died in 1907,[31] William died in 1914[32] and Benjamin died in 1926.[33]

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[1] I have not found a record or seen one cited which supports the John Caleb Sr. and Jr. claim.
[2] 1820 U.S. census, Robeson County, North Carolina, population schedule, p. 305 (penned), line 13, Caleb Sutton (indexed as Calebe Fulton); digital images, *Ancestry.com* (http://www.ancestry.com: 2010), citing NARA microfilm publication M33, roll 84.

[3] 1830 U.S. census, Robeson County, North Carolina, p. 264 (penned), line 6, Caleb Sutton; digital images, *Ancestry.com*: 2010, citing NARA microfilm publication M19, roll 124.
[4] 1840 U.S. census, Robeson County, North Carolina, population schedule, p. 83 (penned), line 11, Caleb Sutton; digital images, *Ancestry.com*: 2010, citing NARA microfilm publication M704, roll 370.
[5] 1850 U.S. census, Robeson County, North Carolina, population schedule, Southern Division, p. 384 (stamped), dwelling 488, family 488, Caleb and John C. Sutton in the household of Caleb Sutton; digital images, *Ancestry.com*: 2009, citing NARA microfilm publication M432, roll 642.
[6] 1860 U.S. census, Robeson County, North Carolina, population schedule, p. 488 (stamped), dwelling 377, family 377, Caleb and John K. Sutton in the household of Caleb Sutton; digital images, *Ancestry.com*: 2009, citing NARA microfilm publication M653, roll 911.
[7] 1900 U.S. census, Wilcox County, Georgia, population schedule, Rochelle, enumeration district (ED) 0102, p. 327 (stamped), dwelling 126, family 126, John Kalie Sutton in the household of H.F. Sutton; digital images, *Ancestry.com*: 2004, citing NARA microfilm publication T623, roll no. not stated
[8] Compiled service record, Caleb Sutton, Pvt., Co. D, 18 North Carolina Infantry; digital images, *Fold3* (http://www.fold3.com: accessed 25 September 2011), citing Carded Records, Confederate Soldiers Who Served in Organizations for the State of North Carolina; Records of the Adjutant General's Office, Record Group 109, National Archives, Washington, D.C.
[9] "Deaths of Soldiers," *Carolina Observer (Fayetteville, N.C.)*, 10 March 1862, p. 3, col. 3; digital image, *GenealogyBank* (http://www.genealogybank.com: accessed 14 January 2013).
[10] Compiled service record, Caleb Sutton Jr., Pvt., Co. D, 18 North Carolina Infantry; digital images, *Fold3*: accessed 25 September 2011; citing Carded Records, Confederate Soldiers Who Served in Organizations for the State of North Carolina; Records of the Adjutant General's Office, Record Group 109, National Archives, Washington, D.C. Page 2 of Caleb Jr.'s CSR looks like an incomplete version of page 2 in Caleb (Sr.)'s CSR; the former only includes the muster-in date and location, his birthplace (Robeson Co. NC) and his occupation (Farmer) whereas the latter also includes the age, height, enrollment information and Oath of Allegiance to North Carolina.
[11] Compiled service record, John C. Sutton, Pvt., Co. G, 36 North Carolina State Troops; digital images, *Fold3*: accessed 25 September 2011; citing Carded Records, Confederate Soldiers Who Served in Organizations for the State of North Carolina; Records of the Adjutant General's Office, Record Group 109, National Archives, Washington, D.C.
[12] Jno. C. Sutton, "U.S., Civil War Prisoner of War Records, 1861-1865" digital images, *Ancestry.com*: 2007; and "United States Register of Confederates and Civilians Who Died in the North,1861-1865"; digital images, *FamilySearch*: updated 16 March 2018.
[13] Craven County, North Carolina Marriage Bonds, 1782-1865, *FamilySearch*, via Catalog: accessed 18 June 2018; Stephens-Zellor; 4 July 1826, John Sutton and Lisha Anderson (as Anderson on the bond but Andrews on reverse side), images 213-214.
[14] 1830 U.S. census, Craven County, North Carolina, p. 157 (penned), line 25, John Sutton; *Ancestry.com*.
[15] 1850 U.S. census, Craven County, North Carolina, population schedule, p. 351 (stamped), dwelling 1200, family 1200, John and Letia Sutton in the household of John Sutton (indexed as Sulton); *Ancestry.com*.
[16] 1870 U.S. census, Craven County, North Carolina, population schedule, Township No. 1, p. 22 (penned), dwelling 174, family 175, John and Licia Sutton in the household of John Sutton (indexed as Seetton); digital images, *Ancestry.com*: 2009, citing NARA microfilm publication M593, roll 1157.
[17] 1880 U.S. census, Craven County, North Carolina, population schedule, Township No. 1, enumeration district (ED) 035, p. 169 (stamped), dwelling 7, family 7, Litia Sutton, mother-in-law, in the household of Spicer Wetherington; digital images, *Ancestry.com*: 2010, citing NARA microfilm publication T9, roll 979.
[18] Death certificate of Mary Caroline Stone, "North Carolina, Death Certificates, 1909-1976," digital image, *Ancestry.com*: 2007; born in Robeson Co. NC on 7 March 1848, died in Thompson Township, Robeson County on 9 July 1928; widowed; spouse, Hardy Stone; parents, Caleb Sutton, born in Robeson Co. NC and Marinda Boyette, born in NC; informant, Jesse Scott.

[19] Same collection; death certificate of William Boyd Sutton, born in Robeson Co. NC on 24 March 1836, died in Wishart, Robeson County on 22 March 1914; parents, Caleb Sutton and Miranda Boyd, birthplaces unknown; informant, C.J. Hellgren.
[20] Same collection; death certificate of Ernest Franklin Scott; parents, Jesse S. Scott and Emmaline Stone.
[21] Same collection; death certificate of Charles J. Hellgreen; parents, Oscar Hellgreen and Susan Sutton.
[22] James's reported age in censuses from 1850 to 1900 yields a birth year of 1827 to 1831, but he was born between 1825 and 1830 according to the 1830 and 1840 census records for Caleb's household. James was reportedly 31 (born in 1830) when he enlisted with Co. D, 18 NC Regt. in about July 1861 (the dates vary but were all in that month, and he was on a 17 June 1861 muster roll). In the 1900 census (as Thomas Sutton, Columbus Co. NC) James's birth date was recorded as *Dec 1837* but this should have been *1827* since his reported age was 72. He stated that he was 75 years old when he applied for his pension on 27 June 1903 (Thomas W. Sutton, "North Carolina, Confederate Soldiers and Widows Pension Applications, 1885-1953," *Ancestry.com*: 2013, images 1853-1857; the name appears as *Thomas Sutton* throughout the file but a middle initial *W* was inexplicably added on one page).
[23] Malcolm's reported age in census records yields a birth year of 1833 (1860 census) or 1834 (1850 census) and both are consistent with the male born between 1830 and 1835 in Caleb's 1840 household. Malcolm enlisted with Co. D, 18 NC Regt. on 18 May 1861; in his compiled service record his age was variously reported as 24 (born in 1837) and 27 (born in 1834) but the latter is more accurate if he was of age when he married in 1855.
[24] 1800 U.S. census, Robeson County, North Carolina, Fayetteville, p. 418 (stamped), line 13, Jesse Sutton; digital images, *Ancestry.com*: 2010, citing NARA microfilm publication M32, roll 32.
[25] Robeson County, North Carolina Superior Court minutes, 1797-1813, FHL microfilm no. 7,896,943. Abstracts of these minutes were submitted to *Robeson County, North Carolina GenWeb Archives*, http://www.usgwarchives.net/nc/robeson/photos/courtminutes.html.
[26] Walter Clark, *The State Records of North Carolina, Vol. XXV: Laws 1789-1790 and Supplement: Omitted Laws 1669-1783* (Goldsboro, N.C.: Nash Brothers, 1906), 422, April 1760 legislative session, "An Act Directing the Method of appointing Jurymen in all Causes, Criminal and Civil"; and 424-430, "An Act for Establishing Vestries," freeholder defined.
[27] Walter Clark, *The State Records of North Carolina, Vol. XXIII, Laws 1715-1776* (Goldsboro, N.C.: Nash Brothers, 1904), 607-611, January 1764 legislative session, Chapter III, "An Act to impower the Inferior Courts of the several Counties in this Province to order the laying out of Public Roads" etc., Subchapter IX, "all Male Taxables, from the Age of Sixteen to Sixty."
[28] Military headstone for John Caleb Sutton, *Findagrave.com* (https://www.findagrave.com), #83950898, Morningside Cemetery, Rochelle, Wilcox, Georgia.
[29] Military headstone for Jno. C. Sutton, *Findagrave.com* #66205530, Woodlawn National Cemetery, Elmira, Chemung, New York, CSA #2716.
[30] Military headstone for Benjamin L. Sutton, *Findagrave.com* #11537378, Stephens Community Cemetery, Orrum, Robeson, North Carolina.
[31] Thomas and his wife Elizabeth were living in Boardman (Columbus County) when their daughter Atha Freeman died in February 1907, according to her obituary (*The Robesonian (Lumberton, N.C.)*, 11 February 1907, p. 5, col. 3, digital image, *Newspapers.com:* http://www.newspapers.com: accessed 18 June 2018) and Elizabeth applied for her widow's pension on 1 July 1907 (Thomas W. Sutton, "North Carolina, Confederate Soldiers and Widows Pension Applications, 1885-1953," digital images, *Ancestry.com*, images 1853-1857; Elizabeth's portion begins with image 1856).
[32] Death certificate of William Boyd Sutton.
[33] "U.S., Headstone Applications for Military Veterans, 1925-1963," digital image, *Ancestry.com*: 2012; Ben L. Sutton, Pvt., Co. D, 18 NC Regt., died on 28 August 1926; application submitted on 31 March 1936 by J.T. Sutton, probably his son John Thomas Sutton. Benjamin's widow Ellen applied for her widow's pension on 23 December 1926 (Benjamin Lewis Sutton, "North Carolina, Confederate Soldiers and Widows Pension Applications, 1885-1953," *Ancestry.com*, images 1708-1715; Ellen's portion begins with image 1713).